PROFILE JOSEPH (Peter Harold) PRITCHARD

Joseph Pritchard was a senior member of the Society of St Gerard Majella . This was founded as a diocesan Religious Congregation by John Sweeney in 1960 to minister to Catholic students attending State schools, as allowed by those schools, and arranging retreats and other activities. The Society was established predominantly in the western suburbs of Sydney and operated in other new working class areas where there were fewer Catholic schools, and many Catholic students attending State run schools.

On 1 March 1972 the Society of St Gerard Majella was canonically established in the Archdiocese of Sydney. There was a steady flow of new recruits to the congregation, along with a reasonable turnover of personnel. In 1986, the Archdiocese of Sydney was sub-divided to create the additional Dioceses of Parramatta and Broken Bay, and at this time the Society was placed under the supervision of the new Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Bede Heather.

The Bishop of Parramatta allocated the parish of Greystanes as the primary Ministry for the Society. In addition, the Society was responsible for the Ministry of Newman Catholic High School.. The Society's span of influence grew over time and it operated numerous camps and retreats for young people at secondary school and from a nearby naval base at Quakers Hill, HMAS Nirimba.

In 1983 he became the Superior for the property the society owned in Mt Vernon. In 1986 he was appointed the Vicar General.

On 26 August 1992 Joseph Pritchard was charged with 3 counts of gross indecency and 1 charge of soliciting to incite homosexual intercourse. One of the alleged victims was a 17 year old naval cadet from HMAS Nirimba. Offences allegedly took place REDACTED 199R In April 1993, Joseph Pritchard was convicted of charges laid in August 1992, and was given a two-year good behavior bond.

In 1993, Joseph resigned from the Society.

On 19 April 1995 Joseph Pritchard was charged with 13 counts of assault and committing acts of indecency, one count of indecent assault, 3 counts of buggery and 2 counts of sexual intercourse without consent.

In December 1994 the Society was dissolved given the concerns raised about the founder and his superior officers.

In 1997 Joseph Pritchard was charged with multiple counts of sexual assault. He pleaded guilty to one charge of buggery, one of assault with intent to commit buggery and 2 counts of indecent acts. He was found guilty and sentenced to 6 years jail in 1997. The charges related to seven trainee brothers and another young male, all aged 16 – 21, over a 19 year period.

In March 2014 Joseph Pritchard was laicised by Rome.

REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED and HBC , who were all members of the Society have all made allegations against Joseph Pritchard. REDACTED, a son of a REDAC REDACT has also made allegations against him.